

31 control data associated with tasks to be performed for a training exercise. Further, a control system is configured to access a first set of two or more of the electronic training devices based upon one or more requirements of the training exercise. The control system manipulates the first set of the electronic training devices according to the control data for the training exercise.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

32 A method and computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions for managing a plurality of electronic training devices include receiving control data from at least one of a plurality of clients, the control data associated with tasks to be performed for a training exercise, accessing a first set of two or more of the electronic training devices based upon one or more requirements of the training exercise, and manipulating the first set of the electronic training devices according to the control data for the training exercise.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 15.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

33 Figure 1 illustrates a simple block diagram of a computer-based system for training relating to devices. As shown, the system preferably includes customer premise equipment 12, a communications link 14, a firewall 16, a communications line 18, a server and controller 20, a database 22, a pod controller 24, and a pod 26. The Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) 12 may include a computer 28 provided with a browser program 30 and a network application program 32. The browser 30 may be a browser for Internet/Intranet communications, such as a Netscape Navigator™ browser or a Microsoft Internet Explorer™ browser. The network application program 32 may be a program such as TELNET. The communications link 14 may traverse the Internet or an Intra-net. The pod controller 24 may control one or more pods 26 each of which may include one or more user devices 40_1 to 40_3. In this embodiment, the user devices 40_1 to 40_3 are network equipment, such as CISCO type switches or routers, although the user devices 40_1 to 40_3 may be

Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs), Chemistry Equipment, or any other type of device.

B3 Further, a pod controller 24 may also control one or more infrastructure devices (not shown).

These infrastructure devices provide an authentic environment for which a real world scenario may be written.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B4 Figure 2 illustrates a simple block diagram of an embodiment with multiple pod controllers 24_1 to 24_3. In this embodiment, pod controllers 24_1 and 24_2 are behind firewall 16_1, and pod controller 24_3 is behind firewall 16_2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B5 The device control module 302 is used to control user accessible devices. It incorporates the control software that enables the pod control system to load starting configurations into the user devices, reset the user devices, and save final configurations. The control within this module may be high level and generic across all devices, increasing the modularity and maintainability of the overall system.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B6 The infrastructure control module 308 allows additional devices to be interconnected to the user devices in order to replace real-world scenarios. These devices are part of the infrastructure and may require separate control by the pod controller 24. As such, this module 308 provides the control of the infrastructure devices that are needed to create a real-world scenario for the user. The infrastructure devices 316 are discussed in greater detail below. Further, this module, in conjunction with device, communications, control and multiplexer modules 310, permits devices to be moved between pods connected to the pod controller 24. This will be discussed in further detail below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B7 The server and controller 20 may send either static or dynamic web pages to the user's CPE 12 so that they may be displayed to the user through their browser. The content of the user interface page may include buttons and hot links for the user to invoke the device-specific operations that may be necessary to control the user devices for the purposes of accomplishing a lab or course.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B8 Figure 5 provides a flow diagram for the computer based training system of Figure 1. A user initializes the system by instructing the browser 30 on his/her computer 28 to connect to the server and controller 20 (S502). The firewall 16 may be set up to allow the browser 30 and server and controller 20 to freely communicate. The server and controller 20 may display a page to the user requesting an account identification and password and use this information to determine if the user has an account (S504). Figure 6 illustrates an example html page 600 that may be displayed to a user to request a user's account identification 602 and password 604. The user can then click on the submit button 606 to submit the information once it has been entered. The user account may contain, among other things, a course for the user and course specific information. If the user has an account, the course is selected and started (S506). If the user does not have an account, he/she is directed to a page for setting up a user account (S518). For example, as illustrated in Figure 6, a user without an account identification is directed to click on a Register button 608. Figure 7 illustrates an html page 700 that may be used for setting up a user account. This page may request, for example, his/her name 702, address 704, a user name 706, and a password 708.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B9 In one embodiment, a user devices 40_1 to 40_3 are CISCO-type routers and are connected to the pod controller through a COM port. In this embodiment, the pod controller 24 converts the user information from the application layer format it is received in (for example, TELNET) to a format that can be sent to the router through the router's COM port. This may be accomplished by the user communications module 304 of the pod controller 24.